about 22,599. But that is still too large. And the question is not very relevant today. Today the question is, we have a surplus. We are not employing contractors' labour wherever it can be avoided. It cannot be avoided in all cases, as I mentioned. And the problem is of finding work for them. Otherwise, retrenchment becomes inevitable. It is to avoid that basic problem that we are trying to approach the State Governments and others to see that some work is given to them. So far, somehow we have managed. But the problem is acute, and I will require your full co-operation in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 465.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: (a) Yes, Sir, (b) The licencing policy...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. no. Mr. Minister. You merely say, "A statement is laid on the Table of the House".

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sorry, Sir.

Irregularities in NCCF, Delhi

*465. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:†

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared under the caption "NCCF working criticised" in the Business Standard dated the 16th June, 1986 highlighting the gross irregularities committed by the Delhi branch of the NCCF; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir-Bhadra Pratap Singh.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Reports of Irregularities in the NCCF, Delhi appeared in the 'Business Standard' 16-6-1986.

The news item appeared in the 'Business Standard' dated 16th June, 1986 referred to Audit Report of the Delhi Branch of the NCCF for the year 1983-84 sent by the Joint Director of Audit as well as the request of Shri Virendra Verma, MP, made in his letter addressed to Prime Minister regarding super-session of the Board of the NCCF and weeding out corruption in the NCCF.

The Director of Audit, Commerce, Works & Miscellaneous in his Audit Report of Delhi Branch of NCCF for the year 1983-84 has indicated certain irregularities committed by NCCF in the supply of pulses to FCI for Army Purchase Organisation, extending of credit in violation of the prescribed policy credit to unauthorised and fictitious parties, charging of lower rates from private parties than what was charged from Cooperatives, sale of goods to private parties at half of the cost price, shortage and pilferage in the godown stock, non-realisation of long outstanding claim and unauthorised reduction in the sale price of confiscated goods.

In so far as irregularities in the supply of pulses to FCI are concerned, on receipt of the complaints this Department referred the case to CBI for investigation. It has been reported by CBI that the investigation has been concluded and the Report is under finalisation. With regard to other irregularities brought out in the Audit Report, NCCF has been asked to look into the matter and take appropriate action against officers responsible for such irregularities.

NCCF has reported that these matters are being examined by the Internal Audit and appropriate action would be taken in the light of the Report of the Internal Auditor.

In view of unsatisfactory performance of NCCF, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, in pursuance of the provision contained in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 has issued show cause notice to NCCF for supersession of its Board. Two Directors of NCCF have filed a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court challenging the action of Central Registrar. The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has contested the Writ and moved the Court for dismissal of the Writ. The case is pending before the Delhi High Court.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: With your kind permission I want to remind the hon. Minister the statement made by his predecessors replying to an unstarred question of 14th August and starred question No. 183 of 6-5-86, in which Shri Ajit Panja stated that the prima-facis case of corruption established against the Regional Manager of NCCF had already been referred to the CBI. And he has also stated that suspension had followed. Now the question is this. Although the competent authority comprising the then MD/President had observed in the relevant file of enquiry that Shri Drall should be demoted and Shri R. S. Yadav should be suspended, on the contrary Shri Drall has been made Manager-in-charge of Administration and Shri Yadav has been given a more important post at the Delhi Branch.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is the reward they are giving.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Inpite of the assurances given to this House in two questions previously why have you not suspended them, not punished them? Why do you give them higher posts, put them at higher places? Will the hon. Minister kindly throw some light on this sorry but funny state of affairs in the NCCF?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is the policy of the Government.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am sorry, I came to the next question because I thought nobody had got up.

Now, Sir, with regard to the particular case which the hon. Member has mentioned, I shall certainly look into justice according to rules and according to facts is done. I will look into this case definitely. I can assure the hon. Member that in a number of cases we have referred the matter to the CBI. In fact as the answer is there, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies gave a notice for supersession of the Board also. The matter is now before the High Court. I assure that Government will not spare anybody.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the CBI report has come. But the answer says, it is being examined. There is a purpose of establishing the NCCF. The purpose is not how much is eaten by the board of Directors or how much is devoured by these officers. The purpose is to serve the consumers of the country. Therefore, my request to the hon. Minister is to tell us how much time he is likely to take to examine this report and then how much time he will take on the follow-up action and clean off this organisation meant for laudable benefits, for the purpose for which it was established.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the zealousness with which he is putting the question. I invite him to meet me immediately after this session is over. I will give due consideration to this question. I do not want

to delay. In this House I cannot say whether in a particular case person 'A' was more guilty or person 'B' was more guilty. If the matter has already gone to the CBI, then it is not for me to pass judgment on other things. All the same I will be very glad to discuss with the hon. Member to satisfy him that the Government is not lacking.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : आदरणीय चेयरमैन साहब, आपको याद होगा कि इस संबंध में मैं आपके मकान पर एक डिटेल्ड नोट के साथ मिला था। वह डिटेल्ड नोट आपको दिया था। प्रधानमंत्री जी को भी लिख कर भेजा था और जो स्टेटमेंट इनका है इसमें मेरी चर्चा भी है इसलिए मैं तीन प्रश्न आपकी आज्ञा से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा। पहला प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह सही है कि सी०बी० आई ने इस दाल की सप्लाई के मामले में दो लाख पंतालीस हजार रूपये के गबन और इन्फीरियर क्वालिटी की दाल मिलिटरी को सप्लाई करने के संबंध में है। और यह भी कि इनके पास कोई स्टाक नहीं था इसलिए इन्होंने प्राइवेट एजेन्सीज से 15 रुपये से 35 रुपये क्विंटल फालतू मूल्य पर खरीद कर जो मार्किट रेट था उससे और वह भी लोअर क्वालिटी की दाल सप्लाई की है। यदि आप आज्ञा दे दें तो इसी के साथ तीन प्रश्न और पूछ लेता हूं और नहीं तो बाद में पूछने का मौका दे दीजियेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You now sit down. I will allow you one more supplementary.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Two more.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: The hon. Member perhaps forgot to add that he had met me also.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : वह मैं बाद में आपको बताऊंगा।

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I thought the hon. Member would congratulate me for taking prompt action. Action was taken and a number of cases, including the pulses case, have been referred to the CBI for investigation. Wherever we found that there is a prima facie case or there is some irregularity, we have referred it to the CBI. I repeat that no one who is found guilty will be spared by us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As an exception, Mr. Verma is allowed to ask one more question.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब मैं मंत्री महोदय से उनके निवास स्थान पर मिला और उनको फोन भी दो बार किया था तो जो आश्वासन आप अभी वीर भद्र प्रताप सिंह जी को दे रहे थे कि आप मेरे से मिल लें तो क्या इसी प्रकार का आपने मुझे नहीं दिया था और दूसरी बात यह है कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि इस एन एन सी एफ ने क्रेडिट से बाहर, दो रेजोलूशन 1977 और 1980 के अगेंस्ट क्रेडिट लिमिट को पार करके नान पार्टीज और नान मैंबर्स जिनके ऊपर 67 लाख रुपये का बकाया था, एरियर था उन आदमियों को भी इन्होंने सप्लाई किया हैं? इन्होंने जैसा कि अपने उत्तर में दिया है कि लोअर रेट्स चार्ज किया है, मेरे पास फिगर्स हैं कि इन्होंने कोआपरेटिव कंज्यूमर्स स्टोर्स को 475 रुपये दिये और प्राइवेट पार्टीज को 250 रुपये पर दिये। तो क्या इसके अलावा मार्किट रेट जो कम था उससे ज्यादा में खरीदा था? क्या यह भी सही है कि कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटी को सप्लाई करने की जिम्मेदारी एन सी सी एफ की है। लेकिन साढ़े बारह परसेंट का कमीशन लेकर प्राइवेट ट्रेडर्स से माल खरीद कर लोअर क्वालिटी का सप्लाई किया है? इस संबंध में मैंने जो रिक्वेस्ट की थी कि इस सारे का स्पेशल आडिट हो जाए तो क्या इन्होंने स्पेशल आडिट के आदेश दिये हैं?

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : मैं आनरेबल मैम्बर से यह कहूंगा कि इन्होंने जो पैरललटी की बात कही है इसमें अंतर है। इन्होंने एक पर्टीकुलर अफसर के बारे में सवाल किया है इस हाउस में जिसके बारे में मुझे अभी ज्ञान नहीं। इसीलिए मैंने इनको बुलाया है। वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी मेरे

पास आए थे और इन्होंने स्पेशल आडिट की बात की थी। मैं तो यह समझता था कि वह मुझे बधाई देंगे। मैंने उनसे कहा था कि मैं स्पेशल आडिट कराउंगा। स्पेशल आडिट के लिए एकाउंटेंट जनरल को लिख दिया है। उस ने कहा कि हमने कम्प्रेहेंसिव आडिट आलरेडी कुछ सालों का किया है उसके बाद उसकी जरुरत नहीं है लेकिन इनके कहने के मुताबिक वह मैंने किया जो भी प्वाइंट उन्होंने दिये उसकी सारी कार्यवाही पूरी की गई। एक्चुअली कुछ कार्यवाही पहले से भी जारी थी लेकिन वर्मा जी ऐसी कोई बात नहीं जो मैंने इनको न कही हो और पूरी न की हो। मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि और फिर यह दोहराना चाहता हूं कि इस मामले में किसी का लिहाज नहीं होगा।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: मुझे मामूली सा पूछना है (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : तो फिर आप इस पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा की इजाजत दे दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You write a letter. I will consider it on merit.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय यह बात जाहिर है कि एन०सी०सी०एफ० में गड़बड़ियां हुई हैं और यह इस्टेब्लिश भी हो चुका है। मेरा प्रश्न मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर से निकलता है जिसमें उन्होंने उत्तर (3) में कहा है कि कम्पलेंट मिलने पर डिपार्टमेंट ने यह केस सी०बी०आई० को जांच के लिए रेफर कर दिया है और उसकी रिपोर्ट आ गई है जो फाइनलइज़ेशन में है तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस सी०बी० आई० को क्या किया गया और उसी उत्तर में जो कहा गया है कि इंटरनल आडिट को भी देखने के लिए कहा गया है तो इंटरनल आडिट क्या देखेगा और सी०बी०आई० क्या देखेगा क्या इसकी जानकारी मंत्री महोदय करायेंगे। जब बात जाहिर है तो इस पर सरकार खुद कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं कर सकती है?

श्री एच०के०एल० भगत : श्रीमन् मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस में जिन केसेज में प्राइमा फेसी आफेंस दिखाई देता है वह सब सी०बी०आई० को रेफर किये गये। एक नहीं कई केसेज किये गये हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि उनकी रिपोर्ट फाइनल हो गई है एक केस में उन्होंने रिपोर्ट फाइनलाइज़ कर ली है उसके बाद सारी कार्यवाही करेंगे। दूसरा जहां तक सवाल है इंटरनल आडिट को क्या दिया गया, सी० बी०आई० के पास क्या है, क्योंकि कुछ इररेगुलर्टीज दिखाई गई दी हैं उनके लिए इंटरनल आडिट को कहा गया उनकी रिपोर्ट भी दिसंबर, 1986 तक हम एक्सपेक्ट कर रहे हैं। उनके अनुसार जो कार्यवाही होगी वह की जाएगी। अगर कोई जुर्म होगा तो उसके लिए कार्यवाही की जाएगी। मैं फिर दोहराना चाहता हूं कि इस में किसी का लिहाज किसी सूरत में नहीं बरता जाएगा।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: The findings of the audit are very serious. I feel there is no necessity of referring it to the CBI, because if the sales are made at half the price, the person who has done it is known. If the credit is given to fictitious persons, the person who has given the credit is known. This thing happened in 1983-84. It might have happened in 1984-85, 1985-86 and it might have been probably happening even now. When the audit has pinpointed it and the facts are known, I would like to know whether the Minister himself will look into it and see the proper action is taken against the concerned persons so that these things are not repeated.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I think I have already answered this question. But I would make it clear that it is for the legal agencies to enquire whether the offences under the law have been committed or not. It is for them to pinpoint it and to prosecute those who are responsible for it. I cannot stop it sending to the CBI. And if I had not sent it to the CBI, I would have been accused of not send-

ing it. When I say 'I', I mean the Ministry.

I agree that the allegations are very serious. That is why the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies also gave a notice for supersession of the Board. When the internal audit report comes, certainly the Ministry will look into it and do all that is possible and proper in the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Question No. 466.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, you have not permitted me to ask question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee has exhausted his quota of supplementaries.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, it has been discovered by the external auditors. Internal auditors had failed to find this out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have gone to the next question.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: But, Sir, this is the thing which he should look after.

New licences for Sugar Factories in .... Maharashtra ....

*466. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for altering the licencing policy for Cooperative Sugar factories;

(b) if so what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for licences are pending before the Central Government and if so, by when these are expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Licensing Policy for Seventh Five Year Plan is at an advanced stage of consideration and is likely to be announced soon.

(c) In the absence of an approved Licensing Policy, all applications received during the Seventh Plan, that is from 1-10-1985 have been considered and rejected. One application for grant of a licence for setting up a new 1250 TCD sugar factory has been received on 1-12-1986 from M/s. Amba Khandsari Sakhar Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Anjangaon-Surji, Tal. Anjangaon-Surji, Distt. Amravati, Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Sir the Government of Maharashtra has made a request for modification in licensing policy, to enable the State Government to get more cooperative sugar factories for exploiting the vast potential of sugarcane available in the State. In addition, spread of cooperative sugar factories have led to very major economic development of rural areas.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to allow a special dispensation to Maharashtra Government for granting such licences pending finalisation of policy.

I would also like to know how many applications were considered and rejected during the period from 1-10-1985 to 30-11-1986 and whether the same were rejected on merits or only for want of an approved licensing policy and whether after the...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have exhausted all your supplementaries.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Sir, this is a part of the question only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are exhausting all your supplementaries.